

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107371
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:DROBINSON

-----066458 271119Z /15

R 270308Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5800

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107371

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL LUSAKA 1472 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAR ES SALAAM
GABORONE ILILONGWE LONDON MAPUTO APR 26, 1978 REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1472

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH UK US ZA

SUBJ: RHODESIA: SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA SUGGEST VISITS TO ZAMBIA
AND OTHER FRONTLINE CAPITALS

REF: LUSAKA 1459

1. TUESDAY'S ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL REPORTS THAT SITHOLE TOLD
ITS REPORTER IN FORT VICTORIA, RHODESIA, THAT HE CONSIDERS
ZAMBIA CRUCIAL TO ANY SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA AND SEEKS FRIENDLY
RELATIONS WITH IT. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED PRIVATELY
THAT SITHOLE ALSO TOLD THE REPORTER THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO
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VISIT LUSAKA.

2. THE SAME ARTICLE REPORTS THAT MUZOREWA SAID IN A SEPARATE
STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD INITIATE A FULL SCALE CAMPAIGN FOR RE-
COGNITION OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD INVOLVE
TRAVELING TO THE FRONTLINE STATES. HIS EXPERIENCE IN BOTSWANA,
HE SAID, WOULD NOT DISCOURAGE HIM.

3. I BELIEVE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE ZAMBIANS TO ACCEPT VISITS BY SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA BILLED AS APPEALS FOR RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. NEVERTHELESS IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE ZAMBIANS AND OTHERS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO TALK TO ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS AND THAT SO FAR AS THEY WERE CONCERNED THEY WOULD RECEIVE SITHOLE OR MUZOREWA ONLY TO DISCUSS THE RHODESIAN SITUATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL.

4. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE ZAMBIANS AND PERHAPS OTHER FRONTLINE STATES TO GIVE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INDICATIONS AS SUGGESTED ABOVE, MAKING CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS. SUCH AN OCCASION COULD BE USED BY THEM TO ASSURE THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS THAT THEY WERE STILL WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL IN ITS ORIGINAL OR MODIFIED FORM AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING TO A SETTLEMENT UNDER ITS PROVISIONS. THE OCCASION COULD ALSO BE USED FOR U.S. AND UK LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SEE THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN THE SAME VEIN. SUCH TALKS CONTRIBUTE TO THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE SITUATION AND HELP BREAK DOWN THE PRESENT IMPASSE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THEY COULD ALSO HELP PREPARE FOR AN EVENTUAL ALL PARTIES MEETING. THEN IF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT BEGINS TO COME APART, AS WE THINK IT MAY (REFTEL), WE WILL HAVE LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR REINTEGRATING
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SOME OF THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS BACK INTO A NEW ATTEMPT AT SETTLEMENT UNDER OUR PROPOSALS.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL OF MY APPROACHING ZAMBIANS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE A POSITIVE VIEW TOWARDS A VISIT FROM BOTH SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA TO LUSAKA. LOW UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, VISITS, POLITICAL LEADERS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE107371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNA:BJSHARP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780180-0106
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978049/aaaaahcp.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8202eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 LUSAKA 1459
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3066431
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA SUGGEST VISITS TO ZAMBIA AND OTHER FRONTLINE CAPITALS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, US, ZA, (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI), (MUZOREWA, ABEL)
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8202eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014